Wednesday, *the* $\frac{\textit{29th July 1942}}{\textit{13th Karkadagam 1117}}$

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at eleven of the clock with the Hon'ble President (A. F. W. DIXON Esq., C.I.E., I.C.S.) in the Chair.

Messrs. L. M. Pylee, Rao Sahib I. N. Menon, T. Narayana Menon were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

APPOINTMENT—AYURVEDIC HOSPITAL

11. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will Government kindly state whether any appointment has been made in the Ayurvedic Hospital, Trichur, of a Store-keeper without reference to the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* With your permission, Sir, I would like to correct that answer. A store attender was appointed from 14th Edavam 1117.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know Sir, whether this store attender was appointed by the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, the reason why the Staff Selection Board did not appoint that particular officer?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* In appointing attenders, the departmental heads are given powers and no reference to the Staff Selection Board is necessary.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know Sir what is the pay of the store-keeper?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Rs. 20—25.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether the appointment in the Ayurveda Department is done by the Minister or by the Staff Selection Board, if the salary is Rs. 20—100?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I think it is done by the Staff Selection Board.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know, Sir, whether this vacancy has been reported to the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* No. It is an attender's post.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* We are referring to the store-keeper.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is an attender, who was appointed. No store-keeper was appointed.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is it the designation that makes the distinction?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I think so.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Simply because the officer is called an attender, does it mean that it need not come under the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* The Superintendent is given power to appoint menials and attenders.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* Up to what limit?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Rs. 15 and below.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* The question is what is the amount of pay up to which the Superintendent of Ayurveda can appoint?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* My information is that it is Rs. 15.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* What is the pay of this officer?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Rs. 20—25. The Superintendent is given power to appoint these attenders.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* By whom?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* By the Government.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* On what ground?

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Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: For the information of the House, I may say that the attender has to furnish a security of Rs. 1,000 and the Superintendent was given power to select a suitable candidate.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: Was exception made to the general rule, because the attender has to deposit Rs. 1,000 ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: It does not come within the purview of the Staff Selection Board.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: You say that the Superintendent can appoint only up to Rs. 15. We are putting a question, what is the pay of this officer. If the Minister is not in a position to give the pay, then we are asking.....

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: It is Rs. 20 to 25.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: What was the authority for the Superintendent to appoint ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: In this particular case, as the post required some security also, the Superintendent was given power to select a suitable candidate to attend to this work.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: In every case where security is necessary, is the Superintendent given power to select the candidate ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: In this particular case, Government thought it advisable to leave it to the Superintendent because the attender has to handle medicines worth a large amount. Government thought that it would be advisable to entrust the whole responsibility to the Superintendent. That is the real position. If the House is against this measure, personally I have no objection to reconsider the position.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: We are against violating any principles laid down. That is all. We do not care it whether you raise it to 25 or 30. The moment the law is laid down for general guidance, no matter who happens to be the head of the department, irrespective of any such consideration, the rule must be enforced rigorously. Only to bring this point out, I put this question.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: For the information of this House, I may say that no such consideration weighed with me when I passed this order.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North)*: I am only making a general reference, because we have to refer to this question later on in this Council.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: May I know whether from amongst the persons selected by the Staff Selection Board, there would not have been persons to give security and accept the post?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Oh, yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Then, why this exception?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: I explained that position. Personally I thought it would be advisable that the Superintendent may appoint somebody in whom he had faith, because the clerk has to handle so many rupees worth of medicines.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Why should the poor Superintendent be saddled with possible misfeasance?

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: May I know whether the gollahs in Treasuries are appointed by the Staff Selection Board?

Mr. M. Sivarama Menon *(Advocate-General)*: I think it is within the purview of the Staff Selection Board.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur)*: Here is a special appointment. Because of the fact that so much of money is involved, some Head of the Department is given power. What is the principle which actuated the Government in coming to the conclusion that the head of the department should be given absolute powers in the matter of appointments?

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: Are there not attenders in other departments?

Dr. T. Verghese *(Chief Medical Officer)*: Yes. There are. As a matter of fact, attenders do not come within the purview of the Staff Selection Board.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters)*: I am speaking of clerical attenders in the Huzur Office and other offices.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Why should a person handling so much responsibility be called an attender.

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: You can give him any name.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri)*: Is it for the purpose of deviating from the rule?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: No.

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Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know who is the person that has been appointed?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* One lady graduate.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know her name?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Sarada Amma.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* To which community does she belong?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Nayar.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know that in the Ayurvedic Department there has been an over-weightage of caste-Hindus?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Can you deny my statement, the assertion that I made?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* Was there not an order issued by the Government that in future appointments in the Ayurvedic department, unrepresented communities should be preferred?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I want notice.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Is there not a general circular that in the matter of appointments, sufficient consideration should be shown to the communities which are unrepresented?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes, there is.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* May I know whether a circular was not issued to the head of the Ayurvedic Department?

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* May I know whether this is not a violation of the principles involved in the issue?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* We do not know the composition of the staff.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* You have on the floor of this House stated that there is an overweightage of certain communities there especially the caste-Hindus. I know it myself.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* There is no doubt that nearly 80 to 85 per cent of the appointments are held by caste-Hindus. There is no use getting over this. Everybody knows it.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Was this lady already in the service of the department?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* No.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal *(Vadakkancheri):* Was she in any other department?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have no information.

Mr. C. R. Iyyunni *(Trichur-South):* Can the Minister deny that she did not hold any appointment in the State service?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I have absolutely no information about this lady. I tell you that this matter was not brought before the Government. When a question was asked by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur, I got this information from the Superintendent. The matter has not been reported, as the statement of appointments will be submitted only quarterly or half-yearly.

Dr. A. R. Menon *(Trichur-North):* Will the Minister give us an assurance that he will keep an eye on these people and see that the rules laid down by the Government are carried out?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* I can assure the leader of the opposition that I will.

Ismail Hajee Essa Sait *(Mattancheri):* Did the Hon'ble Minister get any recommendation letter for the appointment of this lady? *(Laughter).*

BURIAL GROUND FOR MUSLIMS—THRIKKANARVATTAM

12. Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* Will Government kindly state whether they have constituted a committee to go into the question of the burial ground for Muslims at Thrikkanarvattam ?

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development):* Yes. The attention of the Hon'ble Member is invited to the Government Proceedings published on page 942 in the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 27th Mithunam 1117.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether the committee has reported after going through the question?

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